CLAIMS

1. In a mobile station, a method of selecting a base station transceiver system for communication with the mobile station comprising:

scanning to identify one or more base station transceiver systems for communication with a mobile station;

identifying that a first base station transceiver system provides a predetermined communication service;

identifying that a second base station transceiver system fails to provide the predetermined communication service; and

causing the first base station transceiver system to be selected for communication over the second base station transceiver system based at least in part on identifying that the second base station transceiver system fails to provide the predetermined communication service.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined communication service comprises a Third Generation (3G) communication service or better.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of causing the first base station transceiver system to be selected for communication further comprises:

causing the first base station transceiver system to be selected for communication over the second base station transceiver system if the first base station transceiver system has a signal quality that is better than a minimum threshold, even if the signal quality is worse than that of the second base station transceiver system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed at least in part by a mobile station and further comprises:

initially establishing communication with the second base station transceiver system; and

wherein the act of causing the first base station transceiver system to be selected for communication comprises the further act of facilitating a handoff to the first base station

transceiver system if a signal quality of the first base station transceiver system is better than a minimum threshold, even if the signal quality is worse than that of the second base station transceiver system.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed at least in part by a mobile station and further comprises:

initially establishing communication with the first base station transceiver system which provides the predetermined communication service; and

wherein the act of causing the first base station transceiver system to be selected for communication comprises the further act of refraining from handing-off to the second base station transceiver system if a signal quality of the first base station transceiver system is better than a minimum threshold, even if the signal quality is worse than that of the second base station transceiver system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed at least in part by a mobile station, and further comprises:

wherein the act of causing the first base station transceiver system to be selected for communication comprises the further acts of producing and sending a list of one or more handoff candidate identifiers to a serving base station transceiver system which excludes an identifier for the second base station transceiver system.

7. A method of selecting a base station transceiver system for communication, comprising:

scanning to identify one or more base station transceiver systems for communication with a mobile station;

identifying at least one base station transceiver system that fails to provide a predetermined digital communication service; and

producing and sending a list of one or more handoff candidate identifiers to a serving base station transceiver system which excludes an identifier for at least one base station transceiver system based on its failure to provide the predetermined digital communication service.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined digital communication service comprises a Third Generation (3G) communication service or better.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined digital communication service comprises a Second Generation (2G) communication service.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the list is sent as part of one of an origination message, a page response message, and a pilot strength measurement message.